

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3391

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, KS, UG
SUBJECT: VISIT OF UGANDAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND POWER

1. THE UGANDAN MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND POWER, DUSMAN SABUNI, VISITED THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA FROM APRIL 12 TO 19, AS GUEST OF MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY CHOE GAK-KYU. WHILE IN SEOUL SABUNI CALLED ON PRESIDENT PAK, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD NAM TOK-U, DEFENSE MINISTER NO CHAE-HYON, AND OTHER LEADING ROKG OFFICIALS. SABUNI ALSO TOURED A NUMBER OF KOREAN INDUSTRIAL INSTALLATIONS AND RECEIVED GENERAL POLITICAL AND SECURITY BRIEFINGS INCLUDING A TRIP TO THE JOINT SECURITY AREA AT PANMUNJOM.

2. IN THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY MINISTERS SABUNI AND CHOE REFERENCE WAS MADE TO PREVIOUS ROK ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN THE FORM OF MEDICAL DOCTORS, AND TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADE, ECONOMIC, AND TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS. BOTH SIDES ALSO AGREE TO "ENCOURAGE AND ASSIST THEIR BUSINESS COMMUNITIES IN INITIATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE ACTIVE BUSINESS RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM".

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3. DISCUSSING THE VISIT WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THAT SABUNI TRIP ONLY INVOLVED THE ROK. IT GREW OUT OF AN INVITATION EXTENDED TO THE UGANDIAN GOVERNMENT IN 1976; THEY FELT IT HAD BEEN FURTHER ENCOURAGED BY AMIN'S VISIT TO KUWAIT LAST YEAR, AND BY THE EXAMPLE OF KENYA IN ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ROK. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS STRESS THAT THE VISIT WAS

PRIMARILY ECONOMIC IN NATURE AND THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS ONLY PERIPHERALLY INVOLVED. (THEY ALSO CLAIM THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE PURELY IN THE NATURE OF COURTESY CALLS AND GENERAL BRIEFINGS ON THE ROK'S OVERALL SITUATION.) ONE OFFICIAL SAID, HOWEVER, THAT SABUNI, AT A DINNER PARTY GIVEN BY MINISTER CHOE, HAD EXPRESSED HIS SURPRISE AT THE STATE OF ROK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL STABILITY, IN CONTRAST TO WHAT THEY HAD BEEN HEARING FROM THE NORTH KOREANS, AND HAD PROMISED TO REPORT TO PRESIDENT AMIN ON THE SITUATION HE HAD OBSERVED. GIVEN THIS RESPONSE AND EVIDENT UGANDIAN INTEREST IN ROK ECONOMIC COOPERATION, THE KOREANS HOPE THAT UGANDA IS GETTING READY TO DEPART FRM THE PRO-NORTH KOREAN POSTURE IT HAS DISPLAYED IN RECENT YEARS. THEY REMAIN UNCERTAIN, HOWEVER, AND PLAN TO WITHHOLD ANY MAJOR COMMITMENTS UNTIL AN ROK ECONOMIC MISSION VISITS UGANDA LATER THIS YEAR. (UGANDIAN ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT WILL PRESUMABLY BE A FACTOR IN THIS EQUATION.)
SNEIDER

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